

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

It is respectfully requested that the period for reply to the April 22, 2002 Final Office Action be extended one (1) month, i.e., to up to and including August 22, 2002. A check in the amount of \$55.00 is enclosed to cover the extension fee for a small entity. The Examiner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in such fees, or credit any overpayment of such fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

AMENDMENT

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 20 and 25, without prejudice.

Kindly amend claims 12, 19, 26-37 and 39, 40 and 42-44, without prejudice, to read as follows:

E¹
12. (Amended Twice) A method of detecting the presence or absence of bacteria comprising the steps of : (i) using a kit according to claims 26, 27, 28 or 29; (ii) carrying out nucleic acid hybridisation or nucleic acid amplification or nucleic acid hybridization plus amplification and detecting the presence or absence of strains of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

E²
19. (Amended Twice) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 30, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is from 15 to 30 nucleotides long.

E³
26. (Amended) A kit for the detection of strains of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, comprising: (i) one or more nucleic acid molecules selected from the group consisting of: (a) an